

Rono challenges Salazar at WSU

By JOHN HEALY
Of the Emerald

If Washington State's Henry Rono can return to his world-record form of two years ago, Oregon might be in trouble Saturday when the Ducks face the Cougars in a dual track meet.

But Rono's matchups with Oregon's Mike Friton in the steeplechase and Alberto Salazar in the 5,000 meters won't be the only tough head-to-head confrontation that Saturday's meet in Pullman will offer.

David Mack, who set a personal best of 1:46.67 last year and finished sixth in the NCAA championships, will face the Cougar's Sotirois Moutsanas, the Greek national champion (1:46.7).

Oregon's Jon Switzer, fifth-place finisher at last year's NCAA meet (17-0 this year, 17-9 personal best), takes on Greg Ernst, who sports a career best of 17-1/4.

The javelin offers Reidar Lorentzen of Oregon (265-0) against Laslo Babits (252-1) of Washington State. Lorentzen won the Pacific-10 title last year, but he has been hampered by back problems this spring. He managed tosses of 253-6 against Washington and 234-2 versus Auburn in Oregon's last two dual meets.

Oregon's Larry Bradley (10.53 this year) will be tested by Georges Kablan

(10.60) in the 100. In the 200, Bradley will match his best time this year of 21.22 (20.95 career best) against Chris Whitlock (20.9) and Kablan (20.71 career best).

And finally, Oregon's 400-meter relay quartet of Bradley, Parrish Nixon, Mark James and Jerome Walker will be pushed by the Cougar's relay team (40.8 this year). The Ducks have won the short relay in both of their dual meets this year.

"This week will provide much more of a test," says Oregon coach Bill Dellinger. "Washington State is a good team. They have really good people in almost all the field events and are pretty good on the track, too."

Rono was easily the finest runner ever to don a Washington State track jersey when he was in the process of setting four world records in 1978. His times of 7:32.1 in the 3,000 meters, 8:05.4 in steeplechase, 13:08.4 in the 5,000 and 27:22.4 in the 10,000 haven't been challenged since he set them.

But a boycott of the 1980 summer Olympics by his native country, Kenya, dampened much of Rono's enthusiasm. He has only run 9:00.87 in the steeplechase this spring and 14:03.2 in the 5,000.

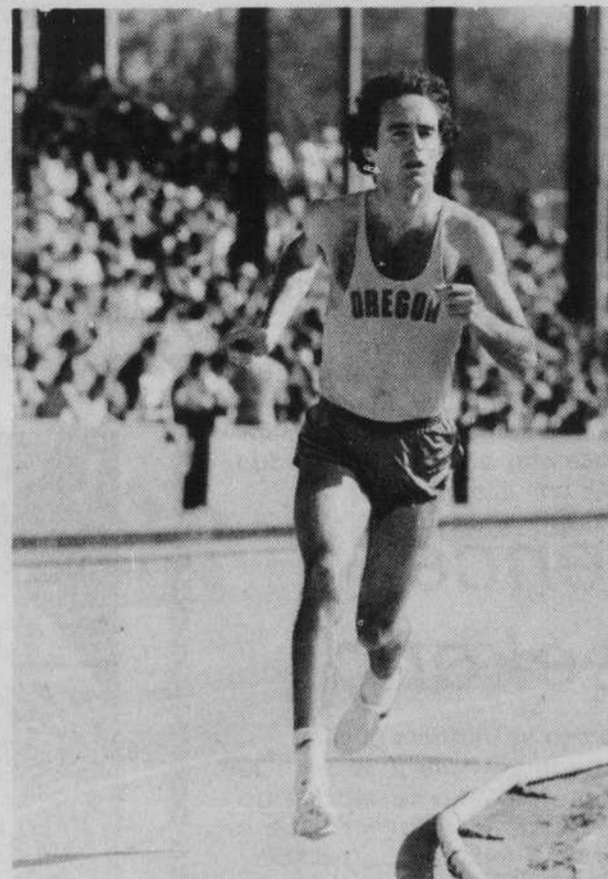


Photo by Steve Dykes

Alberto Salazar will match up against WSU's Henry Rono in the 5,000 meter Saturday.

Baseball team begins series with Beavers

Oregon's baseball squad, with two straight victories under its belt, returns to Northern Division competition today and Saturday with a three-game series against Oregon State.

The Ducks, 11-7, travel to Corvallis today for a 3 p.m. game with OSU. The teams then come to Howe Field Saturday for a doubleheader. The first game starts at 1 p.m.

Left fielder Steve Crum continues to lead Oregon batters with a .431 average, including six homers. Teammates Randy Porter and James Nutt are batting .383 and .368, respectively. As a team, the Ducks have a .280 average.

Oregon, with a 0-2 record in the Northern Division, has already seen two division games cancelled because of rain. Last weekend's three-game series with University of Washington was washed out.



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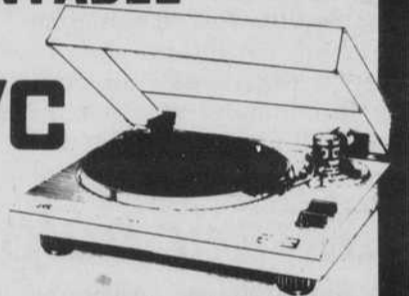
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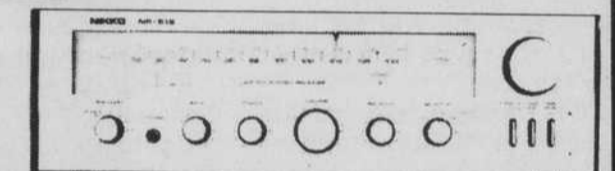
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